



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ellen Roy Herzfelder
SECRETARY

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July 1, 2004
Re: FY2005 DCS Annual Grant Round

Dear Prospective Applicant:

I am pleased to announce that my office, through the Division of Conservation Services (DCS), **in anticipation of, and contingent upon, the availability of funds** will conduct the annual Fiscal Year 2005 grant round for the Self-Help, Urban Self-Help and federal Land and Water Conservation programs. I invite you to apply for funds by the filing deadline of October 1, 2004. By this time we expect to know how much state funding will be available. Due to the time it takes for you to prepare applications, I wanted to give you as much time as possible and hope that you will apply. While the amount of available state funding is yet to be determined, we do expect approximately \$2M to be appropriated by Congress for the stateside LWCF program and no less than the \$2M from state bond funds received last year. The federal monies may be utilized either for conservation or active recreation projects.

Self-Help Program

The Self-Help Program provides funds to conservation commissions for the purchase of conservation land. The priority for this year's Self-Help grant round will be for the purchase of open space for protection of sensitive stream, river, lake and pond watersheds and biological conservation (including species and habitats). Projects that augment existing conservation lands, or connect to existing conservation lands, and thereby help to preserve the integrity and health of the local or regional ecosystems, will receive greater consideration for funding.

Urban Self-Help Program

The Urban Self-Help Program assists cities and urban towns with the acquisition, construction and/or renovation of parks. The priorities for this year's Urban Self-Help grants will be the innovative re-use of brownfield sites and projects that provide recreational opportunities to urban populations. Projects that serve to stabilize neighborhoods or are part of urban center revitalization efforts will be given special consideration. Small towns may qualify for these grants where projects are designed to provide statewide or regional recreational facilities or up to a maximum grant of \$50,000 for smaller recreational projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

These federal grant monies can be used for either state or local agency conservation or park projects as long as outdoor recreation is the primary use. The focus for conservation projects is identical to the Self-Help Program. Park projects should reflect the same project focus as the Urban Self-Help program. The federal funds are being announced in anticipation of a congressional appropriation for fiscal year 2005. Approximately \$2 million is expected from the federal LWCF appropriation. Applicants should apply to the Self-Help Program for conservation land acquisition projects, and to the Urban Self-Help Program for parkland acquisition, improvement, or development projects. The National Park Service, pending the federal appropriations process, will announce the total money available to the stateside LWCF program next fall. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs reserves the right to determine the allocation of state and federal sources of grant funds as project and budgetary conditions warrant. These federal funds may not be matched on the same project with other federal funding sources unless authorized by Congress.

Self-Help, Urban Self-Help and the LWCF Programs each have specific eligibility requirements and are awarded on a competitive basis. Grants for state assistance range from 52-70% reimbursement based upon a community's equalized valuation per capita (EVPC) decile rank, and 50% for federal assistance. The maximum grant award for any project has been set at \$500,000, but may be reduced or increased at my discretion.

All proposals must advance Sustainable Development objectives as well as watershed and ecosystem protection. Such projects should promote sustainable communities by protecting significant environmental or recreation resources, guiding development away from these resources and to appropriate development areas, and should maximize accessibility via alternative transportation modes (e.g., public transit, bicycle, walking). Proposals that involve inter-municipal and municipal-state cooperation, and multiple partners including non-profits are encouraged. EOEA, its agencies, and non-profits have developed *The Statewide Land Conservation Plan*, a map of specific lands in Massachusetts of interest to many conservation stakeholders. This map will be available online within the next few months. In the meantime, applicants may contact Scott Costello of our MassGIS office at (617) 626-1076 to obtain a copy. I also invite you to visit the Community Preservation page of EOEA's web site at www.mass.gov/envir and click on Community Preservation for information that can help you implement land conservation projects in the broader context of historic preservation, housing, and transportation considerations. Applicants should be advised that the program selection and rating systems have been revised to take into consideration Smart Growth objectives.

In order to encourage municipalities to implement Smart Growth consistent land use practices, the Romney Administration has launched a new incentive policy known as Commonwealth Capital. Beginning in July 2004, ten state programs, including those of the Division of Conservation Services, will use revised project selection systems that include a Commonwealth Capital Score. Municipalities must apply directly to the Office for Commonwealth Development to receive their score. The application and other information are available online at <http://www.mass.gov/ocd/comcap.html>. For questions on Commonwealth Capital email commcap@massmail.state.ma.us or call (617) 626-4949.

Please contact DCS at (617) 626-1010, if you wish to learn more about these grant programs and to request an application package. More information and application forms may also be found on the DCS web page at www.mass.gov/envir/dcs. Thank you for your partnership in land conservation and I encourage each and every community to take advantage of this opportunity.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ellen Roy Herzfelder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" being the most prominent.

Ellen Roy Herzfelder